
Questions to Ask Your Transplant Team

Patients usually have many questions as they go through the transplant process. It is important to ask members of your transplant team about your transplant and your health. Below are samples of questions you may want to consider. A space is provided for the answers. There is also a section for notes and other questions you may have.

What are my choices other than transplantation?

What are the benefits and risks of transplantation?

What tests and other procedures are part of the evaluation process?

How does the evaluation affect whether or not I am put on the waiting list?

(Yes — transplantation is major surgery and may not be the best option for your illness.)

How will I know I am definitely on the waiting list? *(You will be told after completing your evaluation.)*

How long can I expect to wait? *(This depends on the type of organ you need and the availability of a good match for your body.)*

How long has Mass General been doing my type of transplant?

How many of these transplants does Mass General and my surgical team perform each year?

How long will my organ survive if I have it done at Mass General or at other centers?

How does this medical team decide whether or not to accept a particular organ for a patient?

Who are the members of the Mass General transplant team and what are their roles?
How do I reach them if I have questions?

How many surgeons at this hospital are available to do my type of transplant?

Who will tell me about the transplant process?

Is there a special ward of the hospital for transplant patients? (*Yes — the Transplant Unit, Blake 6*)

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Does Mass General have clinical research programs in transplantation? Will I be asked to take part in research studies? *(Yes, Mass General has a well-known research program that has made many advances in transplantation. You may be offered the chance to participate in research studies — if so, you will be told all about the study in advance and have a chance to offer to participate or to refuse without affecting your transplant care.)*

Is a living donor transplant a possibility for me? If so, how do you know who is the right donor? What risk there is for the donor? What type of evaluation do they need? What is the process for a living donation?

For a living organ donor, are there options for the type of surgery such as laparoscopic surgery? Who can explain laparoscopic surgery to me? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Can I be listed for a transplant at a second hospital *(yes)*? And how does this affect my waiting time? *(Depends on the nature of the waiting list at each center and in each region — but it will not affect your wait at the first center.)*

Is my age an issue?

How long does an evaluation take if I have a possible living organ donor (for kidney, liver or lung transplantation)?

Can my own doctor take care of me after I have received my new organ?

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